Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A linkage support system for a work vehicle, the work vehicle including a frame, a work tool, and a linkage for manipulating the work tool, the frame having a left mast portion and a right mast portion, the linkage support system comprising:

at least one fastener;

a load bearing support, the load bearing support being a portion of the frame located between the left mast portion and the right mast portion; and

a linkage pin support, the linkage pin support removably attached to the load bearing support via the at least one fastener, the linkage coupled to the linkage pin support.

2. (Original) The linkage support system of claim 1, further comprising a reinforced area of the frame wherein the load bearing support is the reinforced area.

3. (Currently amended) The linkage support system of claim 1, wherein the ~~load bearing support and the linkage pin support are removably attached by screws~~at least one fastener comprises a screw.

4. (Original) The linkage support system of claim 1, wherein the linkage pin support comprises an integrated linkage pin support.

5. (Original) The linkage support system of claim 4, wherein the integrated linkage pin support comprises at least two metal parts, the at least two metal parts being welded together.

6. (Original) The linkage support system of claim 4, wherein the integrated linkage pin support comprises a single metal casting.

7. (Original) The linkage support system of claim 1, further comprising a boom, the boom comprising:

a left boom portion having a first left boom end and a second left boom end;

a right boom portion having a first right boom end and a second right boom end; and

a cross tube, the first left boom end and the first right boom end respectively and pivotally connected to the left mast portion and the right mast portion, the second left boom end and the second right boom end pivotally connected to the work tool, the cross tube rigidly connecting the left boom portion and the right boom portion.

8. (Currently amended) A linkage support system for a work vehicle, the work vehicle including a frame, a work tool, and a linkage for manipulating the work tool, the frame having a left mast portion and a right mast portion, the linkage support system comprising:

a linkage pin;

at least one fastener;

a load bearing support, the load bearing support being a portion of the frame located between the left mast portion and the right mast portion; and

a linkage pin support, the linkage pin support removably attached to the load bearing support via the at least one fastener, the linkage coupled to the linkage pin support, the linkage pin support including an access hole and an insertion hole, the linkage pin being assembled to the linkage pin support by transporting the linkage pin through the access hole and inserting the linkage pin into the insertion hole.

9. (Currently amended) A linkage support system for a work vehicle, the work vehicle including a frame, ground engaging means for supporting and propelling the frame over a surface, a mast, the mast forming a portion of the frame and extending upwardly from another portion of the frame, a boom having a first boom end and a second boom end, the first boom end being pivotally coupled to the mast, a work tool operatively coupled to the second boom end, and a linkage for manipulating the work tool, the linkage support system comprising:

at least one fastener;

a load bearing support located on the mast; and

a linkage pin support, the linkage pin support being removably attached to the load bearing support via the at least one fastener, the linkage being coupled to the linkage pin support.

10. (Original) The linkage support system of claim 9, wherein the linkage includes a first linkage end and a second linkage end, the first linkage end being coupled to the linkage pin support, the second linkage end being coupled to the work tool.

11. (Original) The linkage support system of claim 9, wherein the linkage includes a power tilt device, the power tilt device being coupled to the linkage pin support, the power tilt device powering the linkage.

12. (Original) The linkage support system of claim 11, wherein the power tilt device comprises a hydraulic tilt cylinder.

13. (Original) The linkage support system of claim 9, wherein the frame comprises the load bearing support.

14. (Currently amended) A linkage support system for a work vehicle, the work vehicle including a frame, ground engaging means for supporting and propelling the frame over a surface, a mast, the mast forming a portion of the frame and extending upwardly from another portion of the frame, a boom having a first boom end and a second boom end, the first boom end being pivotally coupled to the mast, a work tool operatively coupled to the second boom end, and a linkage for manipulating the work tool, the linkage support system comprising:

a linkage pin;

at least one fastener;

a load bearing support located on the mast; and

a linkage pin support, the linkage pin support being removably attached to the load bearing support via the at least one fastener, the linkage being coupled to the linkage pin support, the linkage pin support including an access hole and an insertion hole, the linkage pin being assembled to the linkage pin support by transporting the linkage pin through the access hole and inserting the linkage pin into the insertion hole.

15. (Original) The linkage support system of claim 12, wherein the linkage pin support includes a hydraulics access hole for supplying hydraulics to the hydraulic tilt cylinder.

16. (Currently amended) A work vehicle for performing a work operation, the work vehicle comprising:

a frame;

ground engaging means for supporting and propelling the frame;

a mast extending upwardly from the frame;

a boom having a first boom end and a second boom end, the first boom end pivotally coupled to the mast;

a work tool operatively coupled to the second boom end;

a linkage for manipulating the work tool, the linkage having a first linkage end and a second linkage end;

at least one fastener

a load bearing support located on the mast; and

a linkage pin support, the linkage pin support removably attached to the load bearing support via the at least one fastener, the first linkage end being coupled to the linkage pin support, the second linkage end being coupled to the work tool.

17. (Currently amended) A work vehicle performing a work operation, the work vehicle comprising:

a frame;

ground engaging means for supporting and propelling the frame;

a mast extending upwardly from the frame;

a boom having a first boom end and a second boom end, the first boom end pivotally coupled to the mast;

a work tool operatively coupled to the second boom end;

a linkage for manipulating the work tool, the linkage having a first linkage end and a second linkage end;

a linkage pin;

at least one fastener;

a load bearing support located on the mast; and

a linkage pin support, the linkage pin support removably attached to the load bearing support via the at least one fastener, the first linkage end being coupled to the linkage pin support, the second linkage end being coupled to the work tool, the linkage pin support including an access hole and an insertion hole, the linkage pin being assembled to the linkage pin support by transporting the linkage pin through the access hole and inserting the linkage pin into the insertion hole.

18. (Original) The work vehicle of claim 16, wherein the linkage pin support is an integrated linkage pin support.

19. (Previously amended) The work vehicle of claim 16, wherein the linkage comprises:

a power tilt device; and

a straight lever, the power tilt device having a first tilt device end and a second tilt device end, the first tilt device end being pivotally coupled to the linkage pin support, the second tilt device end being operatively coupled to the straight lever.

20. (Original) The work vehicle of claim 19, wherein the power tilt device comprises a hydraulic tilt cylinder.

21. (Original) The work vehicle of claim 20, wherein the linkage pin support includes a hydraulics access hole for supplying hydraulics to the hydraulic tilt cylinder.

22. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a linkage support system for a work vehicle, the work vehicle including a frame, ground engaging means for supporting and propelling the frame over a surface, a mast extending upwardly from the frame, a boom having a first boom end and a second boom end, the first boom end being pivotally coupled to the mast, a work tool operatively coupled to the second boom end, and a linkage for manipulating the work tool, the linkage having a first linkage end and a second linkage end, the method comprising:

manufacturing a linkage pin support independently and separately from the frame;

using a portion of the mast as a load bearing support; and

removably attaching the linkage pin support to the load bearing support via at least one fastener.

23. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a linkage support system for a work vehicle, the work vehicle including a frame, ground engaging means for supporting and propelling the frame over a surface, a mast extending upwardly from the frame, a boom having a first boom end and a second boom end, the first boom end being pivotally coupled to the mast, a work tool operatively coupled to the second boom end, and a linkage for manipulating the work tool, the linkage having a first linkage end and a second linkage end, the method comprising:

manufacturing a linkage pin support independently and separately from the frame;

using a portion of the mast as a load bearing support; and

removably attaching the linkage pin support to the load bearing support via at least one fastener, wherein the linkage pin support system includes a linkage pin and wherein the linkage pin support has an access hole and an insertion hole, the

linkage pin being assembled to the linkage pin support by transporting the linkage pin through the access hole and inserting the linkage pin into the insertion hole.

24. (Previously amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising coupling the first linkage end to the integrated linkage pin support and coupling the second linkage end to the work tool.

25. (Previously amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising including a power tilt device and a straight lever in the linkage, the power tilt device having a first tilt device end and a second tilt device end, coupling the first tilt device end to the integrated linkage pin support, and coupling the second tilt device to the straight lever.

26. (Previously amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising providing a hydraulic tilt cylinder as the power tilt device.

27. (Previously amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a hydraulics access hole in the linkage pin support and supplying hydraulics to the hydraulic tilt cylinder via the access hole.

28. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a work vehicle, the work vehicle including a frame, ground engaging means for supporting and propelling the frame over a surface, a mast extending upwardly from the frame, a boom having a first boom end and a second boom end, the first boom end being pivotally coupled to the mast, a work tool operatively coupled to the second boom end, and a linkage for manipulating the work tool, the linkage having a first linkage end and a second linkage end, the method comprising:

manufacturing a linkage pin support independently and separately from the frame;

using a portion of the mast as a load bearing support;

removably attaching the linkage pin support to the load bearing support <u>via at least one fastener</u>;

coupling the first linkage end to the linkage pin support; and

coupling the work tool to the second linkage end.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the work vehicle includes a linkage pin and the linkage pin support includes an access hole and an insertion hole, the linkage pin being assembled to the linkage pin support by transporting the

linkage pin through the access hole and inserting the linkage pin into the insertion hole.

30. (Previously amended) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

providing the mast with a left mast portion and a right mast portion; and

locating the load bearing support between the left mast portion and the right mast portion.

31. (Previously amended) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

including a hydraulic tilt cylinder and a straight lever in the linkage, the hydraulic tilt cylinder having a first tilt cylinder end and a second tilt cylinder end;

coupling the first tilt cylinder end to the linkage pin support; and

coupling the second tilt cylinder end to the straight lever.

32. (Previously amended) The method of claim 28, further comprising manufacturing the linkage pin support as an integrated linkage pin support.

33. (Previously amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising including a hydraulic access hole in the linkage pin support and supplying hydraulics to the hydraulic tilt cylinder via the hydraulic access hole.